

WASHINGTON.

A RICH COMEDY IN THE HOUSE.

Congressional Muddle Over a Negro Celebration.

A Magnanimous Darky—He is Willing to Fraternize with White Folks.

Hearing of the Legal Tender Cases Postponed.

Attorney General Hoar's Resignation Determined Upon.

WASHINGTON, April 11, 1870.

Attorney General Hoar Determines to Retire.

Notwithstanding the contradictions of the report that Attorney General Hoar is about to retire from the Cabinet, Mr. Hoar has excellent authority for retreating. His information is that Mr. Hoar will return to the shades of private life about the middle of next September, and that a prominent Pennsylvanian will succeed to the direction of the Law Office of the government. The thing has been arranged between the President and Senator Cameron, so that it may help the party in the Keystone State in the October election. The Pennsylvanians have all along been complaining of executive neglect in not recognizing the claims of their State to a Cabinet position. Senator Cameron has been one of the loudest in contending for State rights on this point, and the President, weary of the incessant importunities, has finally yielded. Cameron thus gets the power in his own hands once more; though what particular good the Attorney Generalship will be to his State in turning an election is not patent, unless old Simon proposes to clean out all the little district attorneys and marshals appointed under the ever amiable Hoar. Let it be understood that Hoar retires entirely at his own request, and not through any dissatisfaction entertained by the President. Mr. Hoar has been in full accord with the President from the moment of his appointment until now, and only goes the field because, as some say, he prefers private to political life. He has, however, because of the bitter disappointment he experienced when rejected by the Senate as a fitting candidate for the Supreme bench.

A Rich Comedy in the House—Muddle Over a Negro Celebration—Quarrel Among the Rival Amendments.

The House to-day passed a resolution under a suspension of the rules, just after the morning hour, giving the use of the hall of the house to the negroes for a celebration of the ratification of the Fifteenth amendment next Wednesday evening. The resolution was offered by a carpet-bagger from North Carolina, named Dockery, and was carried through as a party measure. Afterwards a resolution was passed authorizing the appointment of a committee of the House to make arrangements for participating in the celebration. Among those appointed on the committee were Sumner, Cox and Eldridge, of Wisconsin, both democrats. The announcement of their names, however, was such a source of merriment in the House, and both democrats and republicans enjoyed a hearty laugh at their expense. Cox took the thing good humoredly, and improved the occasion to get back a reply to Butler's famous "shoo, fy" hit. Eldridge blushed up to the roots of his hair and laughed at the fun, but he positively declined to have anything to do with the affair. Late in the afternoon, just before the adjournment, Judge Kelley, of New York, moved to rescind the action of the House, granting the use of the hall and appointing a committee. A large number of the radicals had gone home and Kelley's resolution to rescind was carried.

In the meantime the special committee, consisting of Dockery, Allison, Maynard, Cox and Eldridge, had been escorted down to the room where claims are generally discussed. Sergeant-at-Arms Ordway, who takes a great interest in the Mayor Bowen branch of the republicans in this district, acted as master of ceremonies, conducting the committee in a dignified manner to the room, where they were to deliberate. A tremendous crowd of interested darkies and twenty whites or so were about the room, waiting anxiously for the arrival of the committee members. There were Howittens, anti-Howittens and some few independents. When the two democratic members—Cox and Eldridge—made their appearance the darkies cheered lustily, taking it as a great honor that so-called copperheads should condescend to participate in a purely African affair. Dockery, the chairman, took his seat and called the meeting to order, when half a dozen darkies immediately jumped up to speak. One O. Peters, a colored friend of Bowen, was the first recognized, and made a speech in favor of his side of the question. Then a black negro with spectacles got on his feet and commenced a very amusing discourse in regular plantation language. He said: "We tank you, Senators, for given us dis great glorification. We tank you for given us de human rights." One of the republican members foreseeing that this style of oratory would only afford Cox and Eldridge some fun, cut the grateful orator very short, and gave an opportunity to the Rev. Sella Martin to speak his piece. Martin is a highly polished minstrel, and acquitted himself in a style that left little room for criticism. After explaining why the Bowen party should be recognized he spoke of the blessed fifteenth amendment, and said something pretty in favor of general amnesty. Mr. Eldridge interrupted the speaker to know whether democrats should be included in the amnesty, to which Martin responded: "Yes, sir, now that we see the fifteenth amendment accomplished I am ready, colored man as I am, to treat all men as my brethren. I wish by-gones to be by-gones, and charity and good will only to prevail in the future."

At this magnificent utterance Cox and Eldridge smiled sarcastically. Just about this time Captain Grant, Generalissimo of the Boys in Blue, appeared, and was introduced by Sumner Cox. Grant was against Bowen and plied in rough style. He declared that the genuine African republicans had made arrangements for a celebration on the 15th, and that the Bowen faction, in order to spoil that programme, had tried to get up another celebration to come off sooner. In order to make it more effective the Bowen men had sought Congress for recognition by having a resolution for the use of the Hall of Representatives on Wednesday night passed through false representations. He declared that the Howittens were a parcel of impostors and political schemers, whose only object was to compass the re-election of Hayes J. Bowen to the Mayoralty. He (Grant) belonged to nobody; he was a free, independent man; he had spent his hundreds of dollars to organize the Boys in Blue, and he represented, though a white man, over three thousand colored voters of the district. The Howittens only represented political hucksters.

Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee, interrupted Captain Grant to say that he understood that the resolution passed by the House was to give the hall to the colored people. "Are you, sir," said Maynard, addressing Grant, "are you, sir, a colored man?" This caused a general laugh at Grant's expense in the midst of which he subsided.

Downing, the colored oysterman, was the next speaker introduced, and commenced by saying that he thought the great object of the celebration and of this meeting ought to be to unite the party. "Oh, very well, then," said Cox, rising gravely. "If this is a party affair I think, Eldridge, you and I had better leave the affair to the republican members. We are cosmopolitan and ought to leave."

This created another laugh, and it was evident about this time that the rival colored factions were becoming highly excited. They were talking as

each other in furious style and seemed disposed to settle the quarrel in very unparliamentary fashion, when just in good season arrived a colored messenger of the House, out of breath, who announced that the resolution had been rescinded. "Rescinded! rescinded!" shouted a dozen in one breath, and looking furiously at the messenger. "Yes, gentlemen," said the messenger, "rescinded!" "Then," said one of the committee, "our labors are at an end; we are finished off." "Punch and what?" a freed color, evidently, "Yes, sir," punch and what will be supplied the whole party by our friend Downing, here." Downing suddenly disappeared at this hospitable announcement at his expense. "I think we cannot adjourn sine die," said Eldridge, "unless we get some official and authentic information regarding the rescinding of the resolution." Hereupon the colored messenger shot out of the room and in a short time returned with Judge Kelley, who entered bowing and shaking his hat very respectfully towards his colored citizens. "Those are not the members of the committee," two white men are the committee," Judge Kelley bowed very gravely to the committee and said, "Gentlemen, I had the honor to offer the resolution to rescind, which was carried. I did it (turning to the darkies) through no disrespect to the colored citizens, but because I think the hall ought not to be decorated by allowing its use for nigger rights, female rights, or any other purpose outside of that for which it was originally intended. Good morning, gentlemen," and Kelley left. The darkies of the Bowen persuasion were completely overwhelmed, while those on the other side shouted in triumph. The entire affair was one of the best comedies of the season.

Protecting Voters at Elections—Marked Ballots Prohibited.

Some busybody wrote a letter recently to Judge Lawrence, of Ohio, informing him that the Virginia Legislature had passed a law making it necessary for every person voting at the polls to have his name and residence written or printed on the outside of his ballot. The writer stated that the object was to "spot" the negroes so that their employers might intimidate them and keep them from voting the republican ticket through fear of losing their places. To remedy this supposed evil Lawrence introduced a bill to-day which provides that no person shall be required to have his name written or printed upon the ballot he casts at the polls, the laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding. It further provides that no person shall be permitted to vote if he be written or printed on his ballot, or using any other means to identify said voter with a view of influencing his action at the polls, shall be deemed guilty of a crime, and on conviction shall be punished by a fine of \$1,000 and imprisoned one month.

The Polar Expedition.

Dr. Hays has been here for some days past lobbying against the appropriation of \$100,000 for Captain Hall's expedition to the Polar Sea. The Doctor is not a good lobbyist. He called upon a distinguished official to solicit his influence against the appropriation, when the following dialogue took place:

OFFICIAL.—What are your objections, Doctor, to Captain Hall?

DR. HAYS.—He is incompetent; is not a nautical man. To be sure he has resided among the Eskimau, but that does not make him competent to command a sea-going vessel.

OFFICIAL.—Do you propose to organize another expedition Polar seaward?

DR. HAYS.—Well, yes, some of my friends thought of asking aid for the purpose. Certainly, the expedition ought to be commanded by a nautical man.

OFFICIAL.—Is it to be a nautical expedition?

DR. HAYS.—Most certainly.

A general conversation of some ten minutes here intervened, when the cross-examination was resumed as follows:

OFFICIAL.—Doctor, how do you propose to reach the North Pole?

DR. HAYS.—I should take a small steam vessel to some point where I could plant a small colony, as a rendezvous, and then proceed onward to the Polar Sea, taking a couple of whaleboats along on sledges, drawn by dogs.

OFFICIAL.—Doctor, don't you think Captain Hall is entitled to some credit for the discovery of the fate of Sir John Franklin after all others had failed?

DR. HAYS.—Well, yes, Captain Hall is an energetic and worthy person.

OFFICIAL.—And he is certainly a worthy man. He has done more for Polar exploration, according to the means furnished him, than all others put together, and therefore he deserves encouragement in the shape of a reward.

This ended the conversation. Exit Dr. Hays.

The Doctor appeared before the Appropriation Committee of the House to-day and made a statement similar to the one he had last week before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations concerning the proposed expedition to the Arctic regions. Captain Hall was also before the committee to urge his project of an appropriation of \$100,000 to fit out an expedition. Dr. Hays disclaimed any feeling against the proposition of Captain Hall. If an expedition was sent out by the government he wanted to see it made a success. He argued that it should be entirely national and not undertaken to make expeditions by land. As money was no bill or resolution before the committee on the subject no action was taken.

National Academy of Sciences.

The National Academy of Sciences will hold its annual spring session in this city during the present week. The meetings for scientific communications take place in Lincoln Hall, commencing to-morrow at noon and are open to the public. All persons interested in scientific inquiry are invited to attend. Discharged Soldiers Liable to the Income Tax.

Commissioner Delano has written a letter concerning the inquiries which have recently been made at the Internal Revenue office by officers and soldiers of the late army and navy regarding the resolution of July 28, 1867, exempting soldiers' incomes from special tax imposed by the resolution of July 4, 1864, and asking if, under its provisions, they are not entitled to exemption of income taxes for 1869. The Commissioner, in his reply, which quotes the various laws of Congress on the subject of general and special income tax, says that the exemption is limited to the special tax imposed by the resolution of July 4, 1864, and has no reference whatever to the income of 1869.

Personal.

Secretary Robeson returned to Washington this morning and was at the Navy Department to-day. General Sherman has also returned.

President Grant and Secretary Belpash are expected to return this evening and Secretary Boutwell to-morrow.

THE LEGAL TENDER CASES.

Hearing of Arguments by the United States Supreme Court in the Legal Tender Cases Postponed.

WASHINGTON, April 11, 1870.

Mr. Potter, of New York, read to the Supreme Court this afternoon a letter from James M. Carlisle, who is now absent from Washington on professional business, upon the subject of the cases of Jennings and Latham against the United States, which were set for argument to-day, and in which he stated that his associate counsel was suffering from severe indisposition. As a further reason why the cases should be postponed Mr. Potter said that the Attorney General's brief was filed only on Saturday night.

The Attorney General expressed his surprise at Mr. Carlisle's absence, as that gentleman was present in the court when the motion was made to argue those cases, which were still pending, not having been disposed of by the opinion in the other cases involving the legal tender question.

Chief Justice Chase remarked that, as the principle in the cases of Jennings and Latham was affected by the decision pronounced by the Court, it took precedence of the cases of Jennings and Latham.

Associate Justice Nelson made a similar remark. The Attorney General said he could only say to the Chief Justice that he did not understand that the cases to which reference was made had been postponed until before the court, and, thinking that the Chief Justice observed that it was so directed by the majority of the bench.

The Attorney General said he was not aware of it, and that he had not been in the court since the term of office. There was no record to show that there was any such understanding. He found here that it was of importance to the public, he had made the motion for a re-argument. If the subject involving the constitutionality of the Legal Tender Act was to

be re-argued at all the sooner the better it would be for all parties, because there were at this moment great interests pending in connection with the cases, and it was not probable that the act and whether payments should be made in gold or legal tender notes. He had no objection under the circumstances stated by Mr. Potter to the postponement of the cases, but he desired it to be heard during the present term of the court. He thought that the cases should be heard at once, and he would on Saturday withdraw his brief on the legal tender question.

Mr. Potter replied that Mr. Carlisle's engagement elsewhere was prior to any order or understanding as to the re-argument of the cases, and that he had no objection to the postponement of the cases until the next Monday, but he could not see what inconvenience would result to the public if the argument should not be heard this week. He thought the cases should be heard this week, and he would on Saturday withdraw his brief on the legal tender question.

Associate Justice Davis said the only question was whether there should be a continuation of the cases having been set for a rehearing three of the cases, himself and Justices Strong and Swayne, at that time, and that the cases were postponed until the next Monday, but he could not see what inconvenience would result to the public if the argument should not be heard this week. He thought the cases should be heard this week, and he would on Saturday withdraw his brief on the legal tender question.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, April 11, 1870.

PETITIONS.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., presented resolutions of the Massachusetts Legislature in favor of a postal telegraph service; also the memorial of members of the Universal Peace Society setting forth their objection to the disarmament of all the great Powers, and therefore asking Congress not to sanction the proposed enlargement of the West Point Military Academy.

TRANSPORTATION OF CATTLE BY RAILROAD.

Mr. SUMNER offered a resolution directing the Committee on Agriculture to inquire what legislation is necessary for the regulation of the transportation of cattle and other animals on railroads of the United States so as to secure for the animals sufficient space and ventilation.

Mr. SUMNER read from a letter explanatory of the whole case, and the committee on Agriculture, after a long and interesting discussion, adopted the resolution.

THE SENATE ISSUES UPON ITS AMENDMENTS TO THE DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION BILL, AND MESSRS. MORRIS, MANN, SAWYER AND CASSIDY WERE APPOINTED A COMMITTEE TO REPORT THEREON.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

At forty minutes past one o'clock the Northern Pacific Railroad bill, allowing the company to sell its bonds in the construction of its road, &c., was resumed.

Mr. HARRIS, (dem.) of Ohio, submitted an amendment to require the sale of additional sections of land to actual settlers except such as is necessary for depot and other sites for the road, no purchase to exceed one hundred and sixty acres, and no land to be made out until the purchaser shall have occupied the land two years, the price per acre not to exceed one dollar and seventy-five cents, and no lands not sold within fifteen years to revert to the United States, and this legislation to depend upon the consent of the company to these conditions. Mr. HARRIS claimed that the bill as amended was sufficient to build and equip the road, and argued against the creation of a land monopoly in the hands of the corporation.

Mr. CORBETT, (rep.) of Oregon, emphasized the importance and commercial value of the Northern Pacific route in the development of an extensive section. The company had in contemplation a system of European emigration for the more speedy settlement of the coast of the Pacific, and he had a full view of their disposition to prosecute their vast enterprise with alacrity, he advocated a liberal policy toward the project.

Mr. HARRIS, (rep.) of Iowa, claimed that no authentic map of the line of the road, as required by law, had been filed in the General Land Office. He also claimed that the company had declared on their official signatures that their land subsidy was enough to build a road, and argued at length that the project was a fraud upon the Government.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., moved to restrict the amendment of Mr. HARRIS to the lands granted by the bill.

Mr. THURMAN declared his amendments to apply to all the lands granted by the bill, and he proposed the Senators to pause and reflect before voting away the public domain. Bills were now pending for giving the right of way to the railroad, and the conditions prescribed by his amendment were rejected—Yeas 16, nays 20.

Mr. WILSON's motion was agreed to—Yeas 30, nays 16, and the bill was passed.

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The SPEAKER put the question on excusing Mr. Eldridge, and announced that the noon had passed. Mr. Eldridge—As this is not a Congressional duty, and is not required by the House, I will not serve on that committee.

The SPEAKER—the gentleman serving on two committees.

Mr. ELDREDGE—I do not put it on that ground, but on the ground that I am not required by my constituents to render any such service, and I shall not render it.

The SPEAKER ruled that whenever the House directed a committee to carry out any of its orders a member was to be appointed, under the authority of the House, to serve on that committee as on any other committee. It was not in the power of the Chair to excuse any member from serving on any committee.

Mr. SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, suggested that the consideration of the application for excusal be postponed in order to consider the colored gentlemen whether they object. (Laughter.)

Mr. COX thought that the large hall gone on long enough, and he proposed that the House should adjourn until to-morrow, and that he would on Saturday withdraw his brief on the legal tender question.

Mr. SCHENCK remarked that he voted uniformly against giving the use of the hall to any of his legislative purposes.

Messrs. Eldridge and Cox were not excused from service on the committee.

THE TARIFF BILL.

The House then, at two o'clock P. M., went into committee on the tariff bill. Mr. Wadsworth, of the chair, resuming its consideration at the paragraph taxing women's and children's dress goods.

On motion of Mr. SUMNER the paragraph was amended so that the words "silk not being a component material thereof of chief value."

The paragraph was discussed by Messrs. Cox and Brooks, of New York, and Schenck and Maynard, of Massachusetts. Finally the paragraph was passed over without any further amendment.

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